Acknowledging letters from MPs

35. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received by him and the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies from Member(s) of Parliament during the last one year and the details of the action taken thereon;

(b) the number of letters that have not yet been acknowledged/replied, so far, togetherwith the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite disposal thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) During the last one year, a total number of 52 letters have been received from the Members of Parliament addressed to the Agriculture Minister and Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies concerning the affairs of the cooperative societies. Out of which 38 letters have been disposed by giving reply to the Members of Parliament. The remaining 14 letters are under process and for reply to Members of Parliament.

Swaminathan Commission report on problems of Kerala

36. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swaminathan Commission appointed to study the problems of various districts in Kerala facing agricultural distress has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Study to suggest programmes for development of Kuttanad wetlands in Alappuzha district and for mitigation of agrarian distress in Idukki district has been assigned to M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. The Foundation has submitted its final report in respect of development of Kuttanad wetlands in Alappuzha district on 6th August, 2007.

(b) Details of recommended activities are given in the Statement (*See* below) Government will consult various stakeholders on the recommendations made by the Foundation.

Statement

Details of recommended activities contained in the report by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation on Measures to Mitigate Agrarian Distress in Alappuzha and Kuttanad Wetland Ecosystem

Sl. No	Details of Activity
A	*Strengthening Ecological security*
Task 1	Protection and ecological restoration of the water spread area
Task 2	Measures for salinity and flood management in Kuttanad
2.1	Modernisation of TMB to manage salinity and minimize ecological decay